



# **Greater Brighton Economic Board**

## **10 Pledges on the Environment update**

### **October 2021**

# Greater Brighton makes 10 Pledges on tackling climate change

20th Oct, 2020 | GB10



## The 10 pledges are:

1. **Kelp:** backing a scheme to introduce a carbon capturing kelp forest off the Sussex coast
2. **Water Recycling:** partnering projects to introduce recycled water into new homes
3. **Zero Emission Fleets:** committing to phasing out diesel cars, refuse trucks and vans
4. **EV Charging Points:** supporting a huge increase in electric vehicle charging points.
5. **Rewilding:** supporting an increase in natural landscapes and rain garden projects
6. **Home Visits:** supporting Southern Water's 50,000 water and energy efficiency home visits
7. **Low Carbon Heating:** rolling out schemes to replace oil home heating with electric and other low carbon fuels
8. **Public Buildings:** reducing energy use by 50 per cent by 2030
9. **Innovation:** establishing an Innovation Forum to share latest research and best practice
10. **Lobby:** using Greater Brighton's powerful voice to lobby government for investment

# 1. Kelp: backing a scheme to introduce a carbon capturing kelp forest off the Sussex coast

## Key achievements/next steps

### Key achievements

- Sussex Nearshore Trawling Byelaw confirmed & permanent (March 21)
- Sussex Kelp Restoration Project moving at pace with a focus on science & evidence underpinning benefits (carbon and beyond)
- Sussex Bay Project moving at pace with a focus on mechanisms for delivering blue carbon and blended finance
- Sussex Nature Partnership facilitating a number of projects across GB area focused on nature recovery to deliver multiple benefits

### Next Steps

- GB to use collective voice to push government for carbon codes beyond current woodland & peatland (including blue carbon)

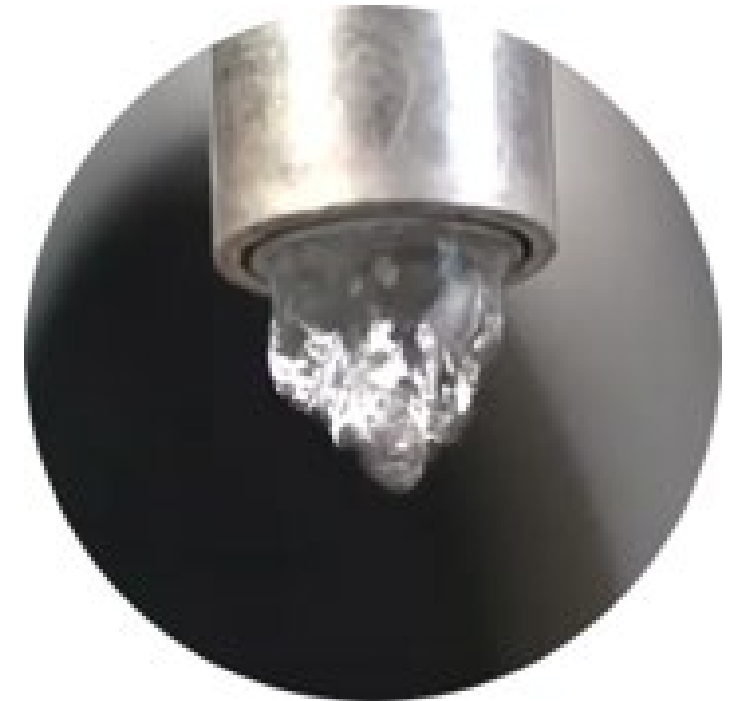


## 2. Water Recycling: partnering projects to introduce recycled water into new homes

### Key achievements/next steps

#### Key achievements

- Southern Water/ South East Water project exploring water recycling from Peacehaven wastewater treatment works to Barcombe/Arlington reservoirs.
- Southern Water progressing strategic solutions in wider region to blend large scale recycled water with raw water to reduce the pressure on sensitive ecological sites (chalk rivers).
- Crawley Water neutrality study explores how to enable development whilst managing demand for water and environmental impacts, including water recycling





### 3. Zero Emission Fleets: committing to phasing out diesel cars, refuse trucks and vans

#### Key Achievements/Next Steps

##### Key achievements

- Most Greater Brighton members are planning to transition their fleets to electric vehicles for cars and small vans as current leases expire and EV charging infrastructure is installed
- BHCC now has 25 electric vehicles including one electric refuse truck, over 5% of the fleet.
- Further investigation needed of low carbon models of refuse trucks and four-wheel drive vehicles
- Ricardo R&D in battery manufacturing and recycling to minimise environmental impact



## 4. EV Charging Points: supporting a huge increase in electric vehicle charging points.

### Key Achievements/Next Steps

#### Key achievements:

- BHCC has installed 200 on-street lamp post EV chargers, 58 exclusive fast recharging bays, 3 rapid taxi hubs with 18 chargers now operational (one of top 5 councils nationally).  
BHCC is seeing a steady increase in monthly usage of the chargers.
- West Sussex County Council and District and Borough Councils, awarded a contract to install, operate and maintain a West Sussex county-wide EV Charge Point network. This will install fast and rapid EV charge points over 15 years to all areas of West Sussex, starting in April 2022.

#### Next Steps:

- Lewes-Eastbourne DC will start procurement for charge points on its own estate. GB Met is investigating potential for charge points on its sites, using electricity generated by solar PV installed by Brighton Energy Coop.
- Further government funding rounds will become available in this financial year.



## 5. Rewilding: supporting an increase in natural landscapes and rain garden projects

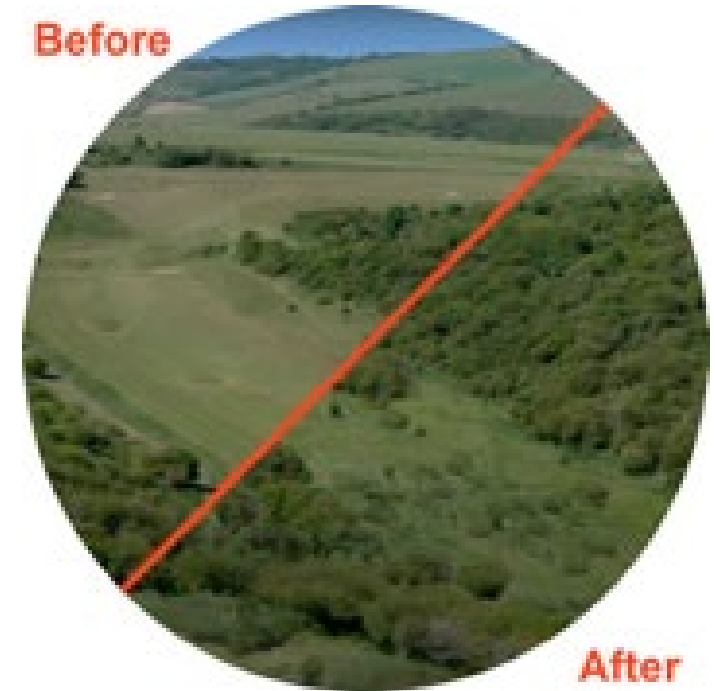
### Key Decisions/ Progress

#### Key achievements

- The Aquifer Partnership's Rainscape Campaign – Brighton's first school raingarden in progress (Moulscoomb Primary).
- Sussex Nature Partnership established a Local Authority Network to support Environment Bill readiness (nature recovery networks, biodiversity net gain etc) and share best practice
- South Downs National Park Authority launched 'ReNature' nature recovery campaign.
- BHCC and Southern Water developing land management strategies to achieve net zero and other commitments

#### Next Steps

- Local Plan policies to support restoration of nature



## 6. Home Visits: supporting Southern Water's 50,000 water and energy efficiency home visits

### Key Decisions/ Progress

#### Key achievements

- During Covid, home visits had to evolve and water companies now offering virtual home visits. Household water use across the South East has risen as more people are working from home so WaCo's have had to adapt and react quickly.

#### Next Steps

- GB continue to use collective voice to push for tighter water and energy efficiency standards in new homes





## 7. Low Carbon Heating: rolling out schemes for heating with electricity and other low carbon fuels

### Key Decisions/ Progress

#### Key achievements

- The CommuniHeat project will take the Parish of Barcombe off oil and switch to electric heating. The project delivery partners are OVESCO, CES, Buro Happold and UKPN
- Worthing Heat Network project secured significant capital funding enabling further work. Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme funding secured for 2 large heat pump projects in Sheltered Housing.
- Crawley Town Centre District Heat Network due for completion Feb 2022, connected to 3 social housing blocks (300 homes)
- SDNP is supporting development of Community Renewables Pathway for the National Park area, supporting 5 community groups



## 8. Public Buildings: reducing energy use by 50% by 2030

### Key Decisions/ Progress

#### Key achievements

- Adur & Worthing Councils received Public Sector Decarbonisation Funds for heating updates at Shoreham Centre and civic buildings
- BHCC installed solar PV across corporate portfolio, more planned.
- Crawley BC constructing new Town Hall to BREEAM Excellent standard
- UoB – solar-powered EV charge points at student halls of residence
- Greater South-East Energy Hub supporting local authorities to bid for government decarbonisation funds.

#### Next Steps

- local authorities are auditing corporate and commercial buildings to support programmes of energy efficiency and bidding for funds.
- OVESCO planning a Solar Park of approximately 16MW, located in Lewes District



## 9. Innovation: establishing an Innovation Forum to share latest research and best practice

### Key Decisions/ Progress

#### Key achievements:

- Sussex Innovation Forum (UoS) established with Green Growth Platform business services (UoB) to bring explore innovative approaches to carbon reducing and energy use
- Extensive programme of research to advance Pledges 1-10 under way (*see report*)

#### Next Steps

- Review all the academic research to tackle climate change and its impacts from both universities to capture maximum regional benefit
- Academic collaboration between both universities to advise GBEB decision-makers and co-develop a Green / Blue Investment Plan for a net zero city region.





## 10. Lobby: using Greater Brighton's powerful voice to lobby government for investment

### Key Decisions/ Progress

#### Key achievements

- The Greater Brighton Climate Summit on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 was attended by public and private investors, local councillors, MPs and government officials and ministers. Its purpose was to showcase the innovative environmental work in the region with an aim of attracting government attention.

#### Next Steps

- The Green Blue Investment Plan, commissioned by the Board, is an opportunity to set out proposals to influence public funding & regulation as well as catalyse and prompt private investment opportunities.

